

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1-16, 19, and 27 have been canceled.

Claims 17, 18, 20-26, and 28-44 are pending.

No new claims have been added.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing clarifying amendments and the following remarks.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 17, 20, and 29-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,929,786 (Schofield).

Schofield discloses a vehicle blind spot detection system including a detector (20) on the side mirror. The detector is incorporated *in* the housing (see, col. 3, lines 17-20, and Fig. 2). However, among other things, Schofield does not disclose or suggest an observation unit that is *disposed on the actuator* and is configured for adjusting the mirror supporting plate provided with the mirror glass.

For example, and without limitation, by disposing the observation unit on the actuator, electric connections – such as the feed or wiring to an interface with a master-slave bus – remain limited and may be simplified, which can reduce component and assembly cost.

Withdrawal of the Section 102 rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

A. Claims 18, 21-24, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schofield in view of U.S. Patent Application 2002/0176712 (Brown).

B. Claims 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schofield and Brown as applied to claim 18, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application 2002/0017985 (Schofield*).

C. Claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schofield in view of U.S. Patent Application 2004/0012516 (Schiffman).

D. Claims 19, 25, 26, 33-36, 42 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schofield in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,659,929 (Yuzawa).

E. Claims 37-40, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schofield and Yuzawa in view of Brown.

F. Claim 41 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schofield and Yuzawa in view of Schiffman.

Schofield the asserted base reference for all section 103 rejections.

Therefore, for at least the deficiencies noted above with respect to Schofield, the asserted combinations fail to teach or suggest all of the elements and limitations of the amended independent claims 17, 34, and 35. For instance, without limitation, Schofield fails to disclose, teach, or suggest an observation unit that is *disposed on the actuator* and is configured for adjusting the mirror supporting plate provided with the mirror glass.

The claims rejected under section 103 that depend, whether directly or indirectly, from independent claims 17, 34, and 35 are also patentable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the section 103 rejections is also respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant has made a good faith attempt to address the most recent Office Action. It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. Moreover, because the arguments advanced herein may not be exhaustive, there may be additional reasons for patentability with respect to any or all of the pending claims that have not been expressed.

For all of the above reasons, Applicant submits the claims are in proper form, and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the application is not believed to be in full condition for allowance, the Examiner is earnestly requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant believes that no fee is due beyond any fees identified in the accompanying transmittal. However, if any additional fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account 04-2223, under Order No. 65529-0005 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

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